

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, UNGA, XF

SUBJECT: GENERAL ASSEMBLY: INSCRIPTION AND ALLOCATION OF
EGYPTIAN ITEM ON THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: EGYPTIAN ITEM ON "RECENT ILLEGAL ISRAELI
MEASURES IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES" WAS INSCRIBED
AND ALLOCATED TO THE PLENARY WITHOUT VOTE DURING GENERAL
COMMITTEE MEETING SEPTEMBER 22. EGYPT AND SYRIA SPOKE IN
SUPPORT OF THE ITEM; US (LEONARD) NOTED BRIEFLY THAT WHILE
US DOES NOT OBJECT TO INSCRIPTION, WORDING OF ITEM COULD
JEOPARDIZE OBJECTIVITY OF THE ASSEMBLY'S DEBATE. EGYPT
RESPONDED BY CITING INSTANCES IN UN DECISIONS WHEN SIMILAR
LANGUAGE HAS BEEN USED. END SUMMARY.

2. EGYPTIAN PERM REP MEGUID REQUESTED FLOOR IN GENERAL
COMMITTEE AS SOON AS THE EGYPTIAN ITEM WAS TAKEN UP FOR
INSCRIPTION. HE RECOUNTED ISRAELI AGGRESSION IN JUNE 1967
AND SUBSEQUENT MEASURES UNDERTAKEN TO CHANGE DEMOGRAPHIC
NATURE OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. THESE MEASURES POSE
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THREAT TO HOPES OF ARRIVING AT A JUST PEACE AND ARE
CONTRARY TO INTERNATIONAL LAW, THE FOURTH GENEVA
CONVENTION, AND TO UN CHARTER. MEGUID ADDED THAT SC
CONSENSUS STATEMENT OF LAST NOVEMBER WAS MOST
ELOQUENT STATMENT ON ILLEGAL ISRAELI MEASURES IN THE
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. MEGUID URGED THAT PLENARY DEBATE
ON EGYPTIAN ITEM COMMENCE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE

NAMIBIA ITEM.

3. US (LEONARD) THEN MADE BRIEF STATEMENT AS FOLLOWS:

"THE UNITED STATES HAS LONG HELD THE VIEW THAT STATES MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SHOULD BE ABLE TO HAVE ISSUES THEY CONSIDER IMPORTANT INSCRIBED ON THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA IN THE ABSENCE OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS TO THE CONTRARY. ACCORDINGLY, WE DO NOT WISH TO RAISE AN OBJECTION TO THE INSCRIPTION OF THIS ITEM. NONETHELESS, THE UNITED STATES WISHES TO NOTE THAT THE WORKING OF THE PROPOSED ITEM IS NOT IN ACCORD WITH USUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRACTICE, WHICH IS TO DESCRIBE IN A SHORT AND STRAIGHTFORWARD FASHION THE ISSUE TO BE DISCUSSED. THE LANGUAGE USED COULD JEOPARDIZE THE OBJECTIVITY OF THE ASSEMBLY'S DEBATE, AND WE CONSIDER IT TO BE INAPPROPRIATE."

4. SYRIAN PERM REP ALLAF UNDERSCORED IMPORTANCE OF EGYPTIAN ITEM AND REQUEST THAT IT BE GRANTED PRIORITY ON PLENARY SCHEDULE. HE CHARACTERIZED ISRAELI AGGRESSION AS COMBINING COMPLETE INACTIVITY ON THE NEGOTIATIONS FRONT WITH DELIBERATE OBSTRUCTIVE AND DELAYING TACTICS. ALLAF ADDED THAT HIS ONLY OBSERVATION ON THE TITLE OF THE ITEM WAS THE INAPPROPRIATENESS OF "RECENT" SINCE ILLEGAL ISRAELI MEASURES IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE CONTINUOUSLY. AMB. MEGUID THEN DEFENDED THE TITLE AS INSCRIBED ON GROUNDS THAT IT APPEARED IN UN DECISIONS AND THAT US HAS PUBLICLY STATED THAT ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ACTIVITY IS ILLEGAL. THE CHAIRMAN PROPOSED THAT ITEM BE ALLOCATED TO PLENARY AS REQUESTED. THERE WERE NO OBJECTIONS.

5. COMMENT: INTERESTING COMMENTARY ON WORKING OF ITEM WAS ADMISSION BY EGYPTIAN COUNSELOR THAT EGYPTIAN MISSION RECOGNIZED BIASED WORKING OF ITEM AND LAST WEEK REQUESTED CIARO UNSUCCESSFULLY TO ACCEPT MORE NEUTRAL PHRASEOLOGY. COMPLETE WORDING OF ITEM IS:

"RECENT ILLEGAL ISRAELI MEASURES IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES DESIGNED TO CHANGE THE LEGAL STATUS, GEOGRAPHICAL NATURE AND DEMOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION OF THOSE TERRITORIES IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, OF ISRAEL'S INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION OF 1949 AND OF UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS, AND OBSTRUCTION OF EFFORTS AIMED AT ACHIEVING A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE

MIDDLE EAST."
YOUNG

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Message Attributes

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